

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS MARR MORG NO NATO

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT: STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
GENERAL HAMRE PROMOTED

1. MAJOR GENERAL SVERRE HAMRE, DEFENSE MINISTRY
CHIEF OF PROCUREMENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MULTI-
NATIONAL FIGHTER PROGRAM (MFP) STEERING COMMITTEE,
HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO LIEUTENENT GENERAL AND
NAMED AS THE NEW COMMANDING GENERAL IN NORTH NORWAY
(COMMON, DEFENSE COMMAND NORTH NORWAY).

2. IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUR-
NATION MFP STEERING COMMITTEE, HAMRE HAS PROVEN
HIMSELF TO BE STAUNCHLY PRO-AMERICAN, AN ASTUTE
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DEFENDER OF NORWAY'S NATIONAL INTEREST

AND A SKILLFUL TACTICIAN. HIS REPUTATION AS
A TOUGH MILITARY MAN, RESILIENT BUT COOL UNDER
FIRE, MADE HIM A NATURAL FOR THE COMMON ASSIGNMENT,
ONE OF THE TWO JOINT DEFENSE COMMANDS IN NORWAY.

3. THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF WHEN GENERAL HAMRE
WILL ASSUME HIS NEW FUNCTIONS IN NORTH
NORWAY HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN DECIDED
BY THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT. THE PRESENT COM-
MANDER NORTH NORWAY, GENERAL KVAAL, HAS LONG
SOUGHT RETIREMENT (ANNOUNCED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1,
1975) AND IS REPORTEDLY MOST ANXIOUS FOR THE
ARRIVAL OF HIS SUCCESSOR. FURTHERMORE, IT IS
UNLIKELY THAT NORWAY WOULD LEAVE SUCH A STRATEGIC
POST VACANT FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME. ON THE OTHER
HAND, THERE IS WIDE RECOGNITION IN THE MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE OF THE KEY ROLE THAT GENERAL
HAMRE CONTINUES TO PLAY IN THE AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT
PROGRAM AND, CONSEQUENTLY, SUBSTANTIAL COUNTER
PRESSURES EXIST FOR KEEPING HIM IN HIS PRESENT
POSITION THROUGH (A) THE SELECTION BY THE USG
OF A WINNER OF THE LWF COMPETITION AND (B) A
FINAL DECISION BY THE FOUR NATIONS ON A CO-
PRODUCTION SCHEME.
BYRNE

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